

## **II. REMARKS**

### **Preliminary Remarks**

The applicants would like to thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1 and 14.

Claims 1-10 and 14 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 2-10 are amended to a method, *inter alia*, wherein the hanging mechanism supplies the base material to the furnace, and wherein the elongating mechanism pulls the base material. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Thus the applicants believe that no new matter is added as a result of these amendments.

The applicants respectfully entry of the foregoing amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 and request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Should the examiner maintain the final rejection, the amendments to the claims will place the application in better form for appeal. This response is filed within the shortened statutory period for response. Therefore, the applicants believe that no fee is due.

### **Patentability Remarks**

#### ***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 –***

Claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the preceding amendments and succeeding remarks.

As amended, claims 2-10 are directed to a method, *inter alia*, wherein the hanging mechanism supplies the base material to the furnace, and wherein the elongating mechanism pulls the base material. Therefore, by the foregoing amendment, the applicants have more clearly defined the applicants invention as presented in claims 2-10, *i.e.*, claims 2-10 simple further define the “hanging mechanism” and the “elongating mechanism” of claim 1 (from which claims 2-10 depend). The applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-10 are not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and request withdrawal of this rejection.

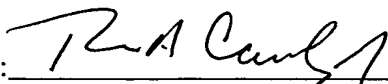
Inventor(s): YAMAMURA *et al.*  
Application No.: 09/522,020  
Attorney Docket No.: 007874-0257743

### III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue that the examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the examiner is strongly urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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